WITHIN OUR BORDERS

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Macleod Tourist Cabin Will Aid Alberta Visitors

Tourists to Alberta this year will find that much has been done to assist them to have the most enjoyable visit possible. New, up-to-date tourist booklets are being distributed, information receptionists are on duty at the border entry points and a tourist information cabin is being erected in the southern part of the Province.

The booklets, "Alberta Vacation", "Holiday Guide to Sunny Alberta" and "The Friendly Province", are colorfully illustrated and contain a wealth of information for tourists.

Border entry point receptionists now are busy at Coutts, Chief Mountain and Carway. Their job is to give information to arriving tourists and obtain information from them as they leave. Incoming visitors are advised as to road conditions and accommodation and are offered suggestions as to where to go to enjoy the most and best of what they want to do during their holidays —whether it be fishing, golfing, picture-taking or sightseeing. Tourists are asked what brought them to Alberta—an advertisement, a film short, a word-of-mouth recommendation or a previous visit; how long they plan to spend in the Province, what they best like to do on vacation and what kind of accommodation they prefer. Departing tourists are asked what they most enjoyed while in Alberta, how they found the accommodation, how much they spent and how they found the roads.

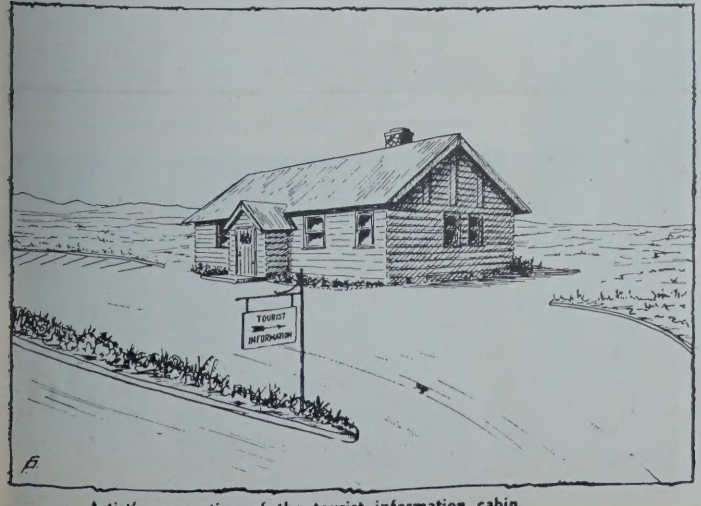
Probably the greatest boon to tourists, at least to those travelling by car, will be the tourist information cabin now being completed a mile and a half west of the town of Macleod at the junction of highways number two and three.

The cabin is a one-storey, frame structure finished in varnished log siding. Measuring 20'x30', it contains a large main room and two good-sized rest rooms. The main room contains a large, stone fireplace and will be finished in natural wood to complete the rustic effect. Having electricity, a septic tank and sewage disposal system, the cabin will be modern in every respect.

Chief feature of the service provided at the cabin will be the private-wire teletype service to Calgary and Banff which will make it possible for tourists to stop and make reservations at either of these centres well in advance of their expected time of arrival. Later it is planned to extend this service to Edmonton and possibly Jasper.

Maps, road information and tourist booklets describing the many vacation spots in the Province also will be available at the cabin.

Operation of the tourist information cabin will be handled by the Pacific Northwest Travel Association and it will be manned through the Macleod board of trade. * * *



Artist's conception of the tourist information cabin.

Three-Man Board

Enforces Production Controls

Conservation of Alberta Oil and Gas Resources Is Objective of Legislation

If you have never seen a gusher spouting crude oil above the crown block of a derrick or a flare line burning millions of cubic feet of natural gas daily, it is unlikely that you ever will in Alberta. Such spectacular and wasteful manifestations of oil production have been eliminated by the introduction of a conservation program designed to eliminate waste of these irreplaceable natural resources.

In Alberta this program is regulated by the Alberta Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board as constituted by The Oil and Gas Resources Conservation Act. This Act was passed at a special session of the legislature in November, 1938. Clause 3, Chapter 1 of the Act states, "The intent, purpose, and object of this Act is to effect the conservation of oil resources and gas resources or both in the Province by the control or regulation of the production of oil or gas or both, whether by restriction or prohibition and whether generally or with respect to any specified area or any specified well or wells, or by repressuring of any oil field, gas field, or oil gas field and incidentally thereto, providing for the compulsory purchase of any well or wells."

The Board consists of a chairman and two other members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. It is empowered to appoint such engineers and other employees as it considers necessary.

In May, 1938, W. F. Knode arrived from Corpus Christi, Texas, to act as consulting engineer in the establishment of a gas and oil conservation board. When the Board was organized he became first chairman with C. W. Dingman and F. G. Cottle as members.

Elimination of Waste Objective

Conservation of an irreplaceable natural resource consists of eliminating waste above and below the surface. As modern field practices have eliminated waste on the surface the chief concern is the more complex and less tangible problem of underground waste.

To ensure maximum ultimate recovery of oil from a field it is necessary to make the most efficient use of the pressure which drives the oil through the rock pores to the well. This pressure is principally due to natural gas which is dissolved in the liquid petroleum and may also form a gas cap above the fluid level in the formation.

When a bottle of warm ginger ale is opened the gas dissolved in the beverage rushes to the top carrying with it the heavier fluid. Similarly when a well provides an escape for the gas dissolved in the petroleum in the rock pores the tendency is for it to rush toward the well and through the tubing to the surface. If water is present below the oil it will tend to rise providing an even pressure against the oil from below.

If the flow of the oil is uncontrolled the gas pressure is soon dissipated and the water rises most rapidly in a cone-shaped area around the bottom of the well. As a result the oil is blocked off by the water and a large portion of it may never be recovered.

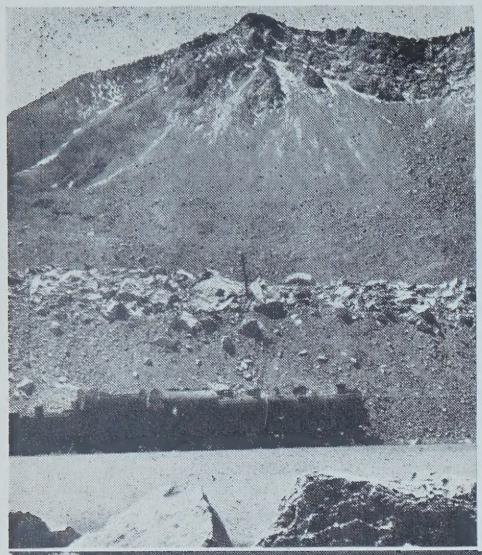
If wells are unevenly spaced in a field they involve a great deal of unnecessary drilling cost. Present day conservation practice calls for even spacing of wells, one well to each legal subdivision of 40 acres being standard in most fields.

(Continued on page 3)

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used. Any material used is for immediate republication.

Correspondence concerning the publication should be addressed to the Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.



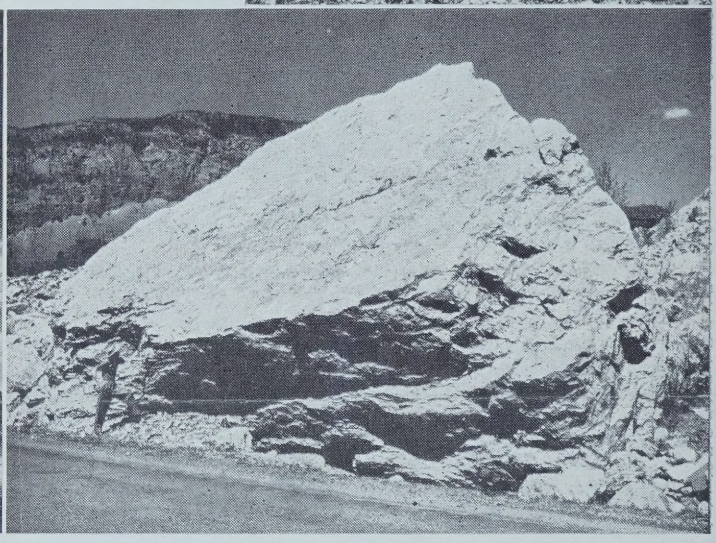
Frank Slide-- Alberta Landmark

Surrounding pictures illustrate graphically one of Alberta's most interesting landmarks and tourist attractions, the famous Frank slide.

Disaster struck Frank at 4:10 a.m., April 29, 1903, when a gigantic wedge of limestone, 1,300 feet high, 4,000 feet wide and 500 feet thick, crashed down from Turtle Mountain and destroyed almost the entire town.

Seventy million tons of rock swept over two miles of valley, taking 66 lives, burying numerous homes, the entire mine plant, railway sidings and 3,200 acres of fertile lands to a depth of 100 feet in approximately 100 seconds.

Today trains roll over the buried town and tourists gaze in awe at the tremendous size of the boulders and the bare slope of the mountain from which they hurtled.



The Part of the Pioneer

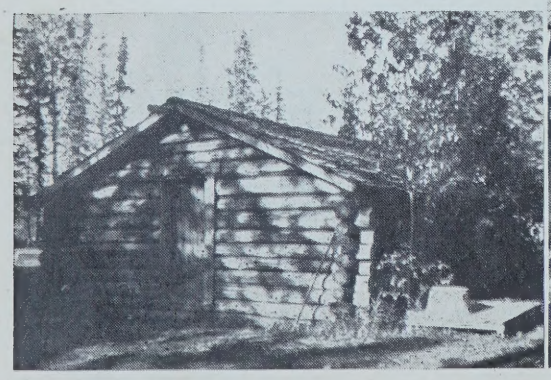
It took courage to leave the comfort and security of their homelands to face the hardships of life in Canada at the turn of the century, but thousands of Old Country people took the step and many of them chose Alberta as their future home. They went into virgin territory, built homes, cleared land and cultivated crops. The life was hard and some gave up. Others persevered and started the Province on its successful career. "Within Our Borders" pays tribute to two such persons who started a new life in 1905, the year Alberta was inaugurated as a Province, and stuck to it to help make Alberta the leading Province that it is today.

Percy Frith and his wife left England in 1905 and emigrated to Canada. They settled first on the prairies and for 15 years eked a frugal living from the soil. In 1920 they moved to the Edson district and again started from scratch to build a new home and establish a farm which would give them and their family a better living.

The Edson country is not the easiest land to farm but Frith and his children built a home, cleared a bit of land and planted some seed the first year. In the succeeding years they cleared more land and planted more seed until today the farm consists of a half section. The years of hard work have not resulted in a luxurious existence for the Friths today but they have brought a good measure of comfort and contentment.

The Friths like the life in the foothills. Mr. Frith farms his land during the summer and in the winter engages in lumbering. Of his seven children one remains with him on the farm, the other six have established lives for themselves in various parts of the country. The Friths have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. If they contributed nothing more to the development of Alberta, this in itself would be sufficient for the growth of the Province largely depends on the element of human resourcefulness.

Married June 5, 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Frith recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The visits and congratulations received from neighbours for miles around make them feel certain their contribution to the development of Alberta has not gone unnoticed.



The humble, 1920 home of old-timers . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Frith . . .

. . . who now live in this cozy, rustic house.

(Continued from page 1)

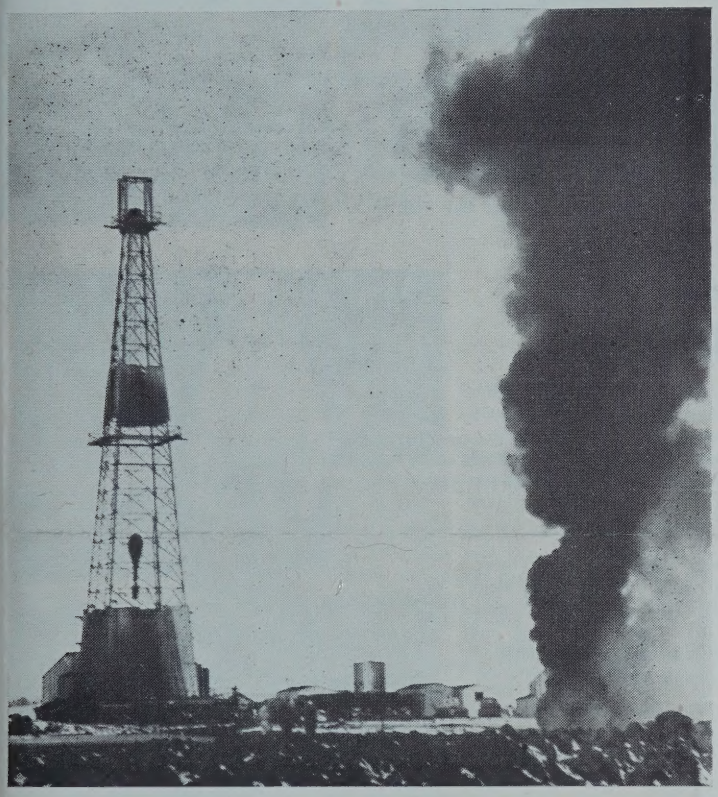
When the Conservation Board took office in 1938 it was faced with a major problem in Turner Valley. Since 1924 enormous quantities of gas had been withdrawn daily from the valley gas cap for the recovery of naphtha. This gas was burned at a flare line that glowed in the sky southwest of Calgary for years. Individual wells produced as much as 20,000,000 cubic feet of gas and 500 barrels of naphtha daily. As these wells drained off the gas and naphtha from the top it was noticed that heavier crude oil was appearing in wells along the west flank.

In 1936 the existence of a pool of petroleum was proved when a wildcat was completed on the extreme west flank as a producer of light crude. Another boom was in full swing by 1938 and operators resented any attempt to impose restrictions or proration production.

Monthly Quotas Assigned

Each well in the field was assigned a production quota based on its productivity, formation, pressure, and gas-oil ratio. Quotas were assigned from month to month.

As time passed the value of conservation became obvious to the operators



Imperial-Schoepp No. 1, well extraordinary but no trouble to the Board.

and the task of the Board became easier. Not only were controls placed on production but drilling regulations were drawn up and enforced. The spacing of wells in Turner Valley was set at one well per legal subdivision of 40 acres. Straight hole drilling was enforced and a hole that deviated more than two degrees from the vertical became an exception.

In 1940 Mr. Knode resigned from the position of Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board to resume private practice as a geologist and petroleum engineer in Texas. The new chairman, Robert E. Allen, was an engineer from California. In 1941 the services of Mr. Allen were loaned to the petroleum division of the United States Government at the request of Harold L. Ickes. For a time conservation policies formulated by Mr. Allen were administered by Board members, J. J. Frawley and M. D. Kemp. In 1942 Mr. Frawley was appointed chairman of the Board with Mr. Kemp as the only member.

Later in the same year, Dr. K. A. Clark, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Alberta, was appointed deputy chairman in the absence of Mr. Frawley. In 1943 Mr. Frawley resigned from the board and was replaced by Dr. E. H. Boomer, also of the chemical engineering department of the university, as chairman. G. W. Northfield was appointed a Board member and deputy chairman. Shortly after this Dr. Boomer was called from the Province and Mr. Northfield resigned. Mr. Frawley was designated deputy chairman during Dr. Boomer's absence.

In June, 1944, D. P. Goodall was appointed Board member in place of Mr. Kemp who resigned. In July A. G. Bailey was appointed deputy chairman. The death of Dr. Boomer in November, 1945, left a vacancy on the Board which was filled by the temporary appointment of R. M. Moffatt as a Board member. In October, 1946, Mr. Bailey became chairman with Mr. Goodall as deputy chairman. Mr. Bailey resigned in June, 1947, and Mr. Goodall became acting chairman. On February 1, 1949, I. N. McKinnon was appointed Conservation Board chairman, a position which he still holds in addition to being Deputy Minister of the Department of Mines and Minerals. Shortly afterward, Dr. G. W. Govier of the University, became a member.

Conservation Board: D. P. Goodall; Chairman, I. N. McKinnon; Dr. G. W. Govier.

Leduc Development Orderly

In the year prior to Mr. McKinnon's appointment, petroleum and natural gas conservation principles had been successfully applied to the growing Leduc field. Development was orderly and in accordance with the latest technical knowledge available to petroleum engineers.

The tranquil scene was soon clouded by a situation that gave the Conservation Board an opportunity to demonstrate the comprehensive nature of the legislation behind it. When Atlantic No. 3 was declared a public menace in May, 1948, the Conservation Board was prepared to assume control operations and to market production from the well. (The Board was empowered to stop all production in the field until crude oil that had accumulated in earthen sumps was delivered to the pipe line. In that way thousands of dollars worth of oil was saved and the fire hazard was removed).

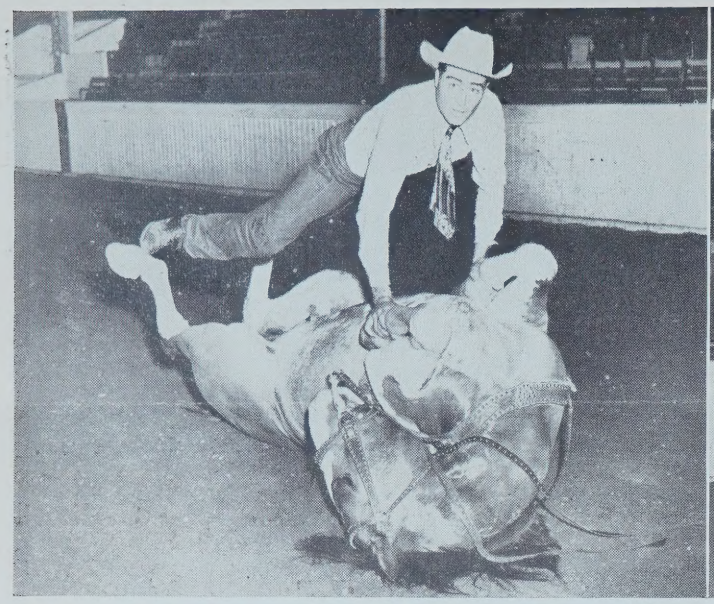
When the well was controlled and abandoned the Board was able to act as an impartial authority to settle the involved claims resulting from the work connected with controlling the well and the disruption of operations in the field.

With the expansion of the oil industry in the Province the Board has been constantly expanding its operations. When a new field develops a field office is set up and engineers are assigned to supervise operations. Drilling reports and formation samples are collected from all wells as drilling progresses. Samples are stored in Calgary headquarters where cores also are stored for many of the companies.

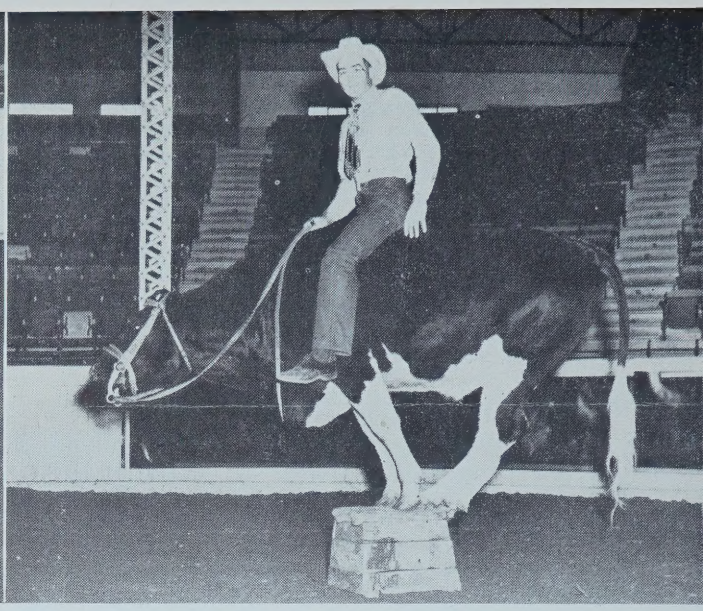
A mass of detailed information on formation thicknesses and characteristics is available for interested companies. The custodian of Alberta's oil and natural gas resources is one of the most active agencies in facilitating their exploitation. * * *

Atlantic No. 3 proved comprehensiveness of conservation legislation.

A Within Our Borders Picture Page » » »



According to Gerlitz, this takes more than just "horse sense".



"Playboy" learned this trick in a few easy lessons.

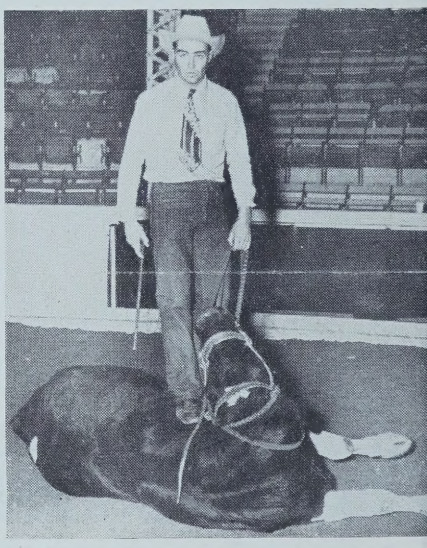
"Trigger" is a veteran performer.

Steer and Pony Steal Horse Show

Audiences at the 1949 edition of the Edmonton Spring Horse Show were treated to something entirely different in the way of novelty entertainment. Midway through each session of the show, 21-year-old Harold Gerlitz of Balzac, stole the show with the clever performances of "Trigger", the trained horse and "Playboy", the performing steer.

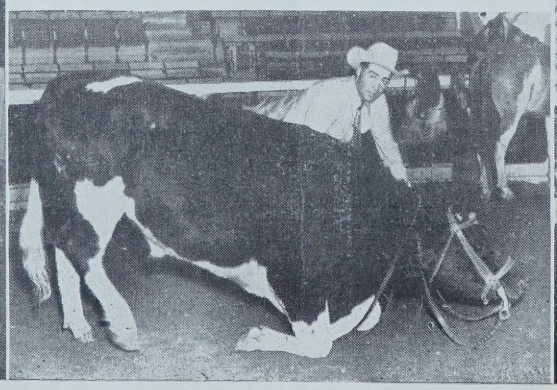
"Trigger", who once was destined for fox meat, is five years old; "Playboy" is a three-year-old steer Gerlitz bought at the Calgary stockyards. With infinite patience, and six months of work, he trained the animals so well that today the trio are in constant demand at fairs and horse shows in all parts of western Canada.

Both the horse and the steer have large repertoires and audiences are amazed at the variety of the tricks they perform at a word or sign from young Gertitz. "Trigger" has been performing for three years and does about 20 tricks ranging from kneeling down to balancing on a small stool. "Playboy," in his first year as a public performer, is an amateur by comparison but draws more applause as he walks around the ring on his knees, lays on his back while Gerlitz balances on his legs, and balances on the stool equally as well as "Trigger". * * *



This requires mutual confidence.

"Playboy" sits down on the job.



Try walking on your knees; "Playboy" is good at it.

This bovine bow ends each performance.

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